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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Scott L. **NIELSON**, et al  
Application No. 10/710,959  
Filed: August 14, 2004

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed January 4, 2008, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed June 29, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on September 30, 2007.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that the petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of an amendment and arguments/remarks, (2) the petition fee of \$ 770, and (3) a proper statement of unintentional delay.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. *See In re Application of S.*, 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Since the \$525 extension of time fee submitted with the petition on December 31, 2007 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, petitioner may request a refund of this fee by writing to the following address: Mail Stop 16, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney document must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until appropriate instructions are received.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Lori Baker Amerson at (571) 272-6052.

The application file is being referred to Technology Center AU 2128 for appropriate action by the Examiner.



For David Bucci  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

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